

## St. Joseph County Local Ranking Questions

### Livestock – Non-livestock

1. Are livestock, livestock manures or manure storage involved in this application?  
Max= 45 points

Y = 45, N = 0 points

### Management Activities

1. Do your management objectives include one of the following? Max=25
  - A. Connecting 2 or more existing woodlands? 25 pts
  - B. Expanding an existing woodland area? 15 pts
  - C. Creating a new woodland area? 20 points
  - D. None of the above? 0 pts
2. Do your management objectives include 1 of the following: max=45
  - A. providing 180 days of manure storage? 45 pts
  - B. Providing efficient waste utilization/forage production for the livestock 45 pts
  - C. None of the above 0 pts
3. Is manure and/or commercial fertilizer applied according to current soil test recommendations? Max = 35 Y = 0 pts, N = 35 pts

### Percentage Issues

1. Based on the county soil survey, indicate which of the following best represents 50% or more of the cropland on the acres being offered for contract. Max=50
  - a. < 3% slopes 0 pts
  - b. 3-5% slopes 25 pts
  - c. > 5% slopes 50 pts
2. Based on the county soil survey, estimate the percentage of acres with soils that have an “I” value (wind erosion) of 134 or greater. Max = 40
  - a. None 0 pts

- b. 1-10%                      5 pts
  - c. 11-20%                    10 pts
  - d. 21-30%                    25 pts
  - e. > 30%                     40 pts
3. Based on the county soil survey, do more than 50% of the cropland soils have a “High” leaching potential for nutrients/pesticides? Max = 45  
Y = 45 pts, N = 0 pts
4. Based on your most recent soil test, which of the following best represents the cropland being offered for contract Max = 45
- a. Bray P1 test < 200 ppm on all fields      0 pts
  - b. Bray P1 test > 200 ppm on 25% of all fields    20 pts
  - c. Bray P1 test > 200 ppm on 50% of all fields    30 pts
  - d. Bray P1 test > 200 ppm on all fields    45 pts
  - e. No soil test available    45 pts
5. Does the current farming operation leave:      max = 40 pts
- a. 0-30% residue              40 pts
  - b. > 30 – 50% residue        20 pts
  - c. > 50% residue              0 pts

#### Unique Features

1. On the cropland acres being offered, estimate the number of surface inlets  
Max = 35
- a. None      0 pts
  - b. 1-2        15 pts
  - c. 3-5        25 pts
  - d. >5        35 pts

#### Location Issues

1. Does the land being offered either (choose 1)      max = 45
- a. lie within 100’ of a water body?      25 pts
  - b. Support livestock with in 100’ of the water body?    35 pts
  - c. Support livestock with direct access to the water body?    45 pts
2. Is the tract located                                      max = 25
- a. within the Prime Ag Area as identified by the Area Plan Commission      25 pts
  - b. within 1 mile of an incorporated area                      25 pts

c. None of the above                      0 pts

3. Estimate the distance from the acres being offered to the nearest threatened/endangered species (per IDNR maps)                      max = 25

a. none in the area                      0 pts

b. Less than 1 mile                      25 pts

c. 1 – 2 miles                      15 pts

## Definitions and Documentation (Available at time of ranking)

Protected , Threatened and Endangered Species: Maps provided by the NRCS State Office and maintained in each NRCS Field Office. These maps contain documented plant and animal species that have been designated by either the federal or state government as protected or threatened or endangered. Distances will be measured from marked location of species on map to nearest point of the land being offered.

Water Body: Any permanent or intermittent stream that is designated by a solid or broken blue line on the USGS topographic quadrangle map, or any pond, lake or wetland (natural or manmade).

Prime Agricultural Area: Map provided by the Area Plan Commission. This map outlines the Prime Ag Area as mandated by the county ordinance.